

STRANDED IN CANTON

directed by **Måns Månsson**



Documentary, comedy

production

2014, Sweden, Mampasi AB, Stockholm

budget

€ 450 000
77 min, DCP, French

screenplay

Li Hongqi
George Cragg
Måns Månsson
cinematographer
Måns Månsson

producers

Måns Månsson
Patricia Drati
Vanja Kaludjeric
Alex Chung

synopsis

Every year tens of thousands of African supercargoes meet in Canton, China, to tie up business transactions with the local manufacturing industry. We follow businessman Lebrun on his quest for the deal that will take him home to the Congo.

The Swede Månsson developed the concept for this improvised feature with director Li Hongqi (Winter Vacation). Their revealing, humorous story about a Congolese businessman whose consignment of T-shirts is delayed, as a result of which he gets stranded in Guangzhou, has already been described as a mixture between Claire Denis and Jia Zhangke.

Lebrun is a businessman who sees an opportunity. Together with his partner, the young Congolese has a batch of T-shirts printed in China so that people in the Congo can show they are fans of President Kabila. But when he goes to Guangzhou to pick them up, it turns out the production is delayed. Delayed so much that the elections have already passed. So the financier refuses to transfer the money and Lebrun is stuck in Guangzhou.

As an alien in a strange country, Lebrun now hangs around the neon-lit metropolis and tries to think up a plan. What if they change the text on the T-shirts? Not pro-Kabila, but Fuck Kabila? Maybe there will be a market for that?

Swedish artist Måns Månsson uses this tragi-comic fiction to sketch the new relationship between China and Africa. Large numbers of Africans are moving to Southeast Asia to start a new life there. But, as the woman says with whom Lebrun has now fallen in love, the Chinese have a proverb: 'Fool the businessman, but don't kill him.' That leads to quite a lot of misunderstandings.



“Stranded in Canton”, a wry hybrid fiction-doc about a Congolese t-shirt seller stuck in Guangzhou. At times feeling like a mix of Claire Denis and Jia Zhangke, the result is a strange, sad, funny and revealing portrait of displacement, and a new kind of globalization: East meets African. // **ANTHONY KAUFMAN,** in *Indiewire* after CPH:DOX



tags

**Congolese
democracy
entrepreneur
in China**

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